



The Disability Benefit Specialist program is a service of the **Aging and Disability Resource Centers**.

The Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) works closely with information and assistance, options counseling, and other resource center services.

The DBS provides services to people ages 18 to 59 with physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders.

The DBS provides information about public and private benefit programs including assistance with application and appeal procedures.

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Disability and Elder Services
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources
Office of Independence and Employment

PDE-3168 Revised August 2006

How to Find a Disability Benefit Specialist

Disability Benefit Specialist services are available in the following counties:

- Barron
- Brown
- Calumet
- Fond du Lac
- Forest*
- Green
- Green Lake
- Jackson
- Kenosha
- La Crosse
- Manitowoc
- Marathon
- Marquette
- Outagamie
- Portage
- Richland
- Sheboygan
- Trempealeau
- Waupaca
- Waushara
- Wood*

*services available in these counties by 2007

For more information on the Disability Benefit Specialist Program, please visit <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/benspecs/program.htm>.

To locate your county Aging and Disability Resource Center, visit <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/Generalinfo/RCs.htm> to find the ADRC for your county.

Disability Benefit Specialist Program

*Benefits counseling
for adults ages 18 to 59
with physical disabilities,
developmental
disabilities, mental
illness and/or substance
use disorders.*

**A service of the Aging and
Disability Resource Center**

How Can a Disability Benefit Specialist Help You?

- Provide accurate information on public and private benefits and programs;
- Provide assistance in determining which benefits and programs you may be entitled to;
- Talk with you about your choices and the programs or services that might best meet your needs;
- Provide assistance in obtaining or retaining benefits and services; or
- Provide referrals, assistance and support on other matters including disability rights and the impact of earnings on financial eligibility for public benefits.
- In some cases, you may also receive representation in formal appeals related to denials of eligibility, termination of benefits or overpayment of public and private benefits.

With what Programs Can a Disability Benefit Specialist Help You?

Here are some areas and programs the Disability Benefit Specialist can help you with:

- Medicaid (Medical Assistance)
- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicare, including Part D
- Prescription Drug Assistance Programs
- FoodShare
- Low-Income Tax Credits
- Private Health and Disability Insurance Issues
- Housing and Utility Issues
- Veterans' Benefits

There is no charge for the services of a Disability Benefit Specialist.

Disability Benefit Specialist Services for People Who Use Sign Language

The Deaf Disability Benefit Specialist pilot program provides statewide work incentives and disability benefit specialist services to people ages 18-59* who use sign language as their primary language.

Jeffrey Cucinotta, the Deaf Disability Benefit Specialist, can be reached at:

- ♦ (866) 796-9725 TTY
- ♦ (800) 947-6644 TTY Relay
- ♦ (608) 266-1000 video phone
- ♦ (866) 327-8877 video phone Relay
- ♦ cucinjm@dhfs.state.wi.us

*People seeking work incentives benefits counseling may fall outside of the age group.